

Spratt	Thurman	Ward
Stenholm	Torres	Waters
Stokes	Torricelli	Watt (NC)
Studds	Towns	Waxman
Stupak	Trafigant	Wise
Tanner	Velazquez	Woolsey
Tejeda	Vento	Wyden
Thompson	Visclosky	Wynn
Thornton	Volkmer	

NOT VOTING—23

Beilenson	Gutierrez	Rose
Chapman	Hall (OH)	Skaggs
Conyers	Istook	Stark
Edwards	Lantos	Weldon (PA)
Filner	Martinez	Williams
Flake	Myers	Wilson
Foglietta	Packard	Yates
Gilchrest	Payne (VA)	

□ 2028

Ms. BROWN of Florida changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

Mr. SKELTON and Mr. PICKETT changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So the previous question was ordered.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The question is on the resolution.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 2030

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I was here during the entire last vote. I put my card in and pushed the button. It apparently did not record. If it would have recorded, it would have recorded a "yes" vote.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Joint Resolution 134, and that I may include tabular and extraneous material.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 4, PERSONAL RESPONSIBILITY AND WORK OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 1995

Mr. ARCHER laid before the House a conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 4) to restore the American family, reduce illegitimacy, control welfare spending and reduce welfare dependence:

(The conference report on H.R. 4 will appear in a subsequent issue of the RECORD.)

REQUEST FOR PERMISSION TO AMEND HOUSE RESOLUTION 317

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the rule just passed be amended to read as follows:

It shall be also in order to consider an amendment by the minority leader or his

designee adding at the end of House Joint Resolution 134 a new title II consisting of the text of House Joint Resolution 131, continuing funds for many critical Federal departments through January 26, 1996, and authorizing a 2.4 percent pay raise for the Armed Forces of the United States. All points of order shall be waived against such an amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under the guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers as recorded on page 534 of the House Rules Manual, specifically the guideline of November 14, 1991, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the gentleman's request until it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leadership.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I would urge the Speaker to clear that request.

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS TO ENSURE PAYMENTS OF VETERANS BENEFITS

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 317, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 134) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

H.J. RES. 134

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations and other organizational units of Government for the fiscal year 1996, and for other purposes, namely:

Sec. 101. ENSURED PAYMENT DURING FISCAL YEAR 1996 OF VETERANS' BENEFITS IN EVENT OF LACK OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) PAYMENTS REQUIRED.—In any case during fiscal year 1996 in which appropriations are not otherwise available for programs, projects, and activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall nevertheless ensure that—

(1) payments of existing veterans benefits are made in accordance with regular procedures and schedules and in accordance with eligibility requirements for such benefits; and

(2) payments to contractors of the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs are made when due in the case of services provided that directly relate to patient health and safety.

(b) FUNDING.—There is hereby appropriated such sums as may be necessary for the payments pursuant to subsection (a), including such amounts as may be necessary for the costs of administration of such payments.

(c) CHARGING OF ACCOUNTS WHEN APPROPRIATIONS MADE.—In any case in which the Secretary uses the authority of subsection (a) to make payments, applicable accounts shall be charged for amounts so paid, and for the costs of administration of such payments, when regular appropriations become available for those purposes.

(d) EXISTING BENEFITS SPECIFIED.—For purposes of this section, existing veterans bene-

fits are benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs that have been adjudicated and authorized for payment as of—

(1) December 15, 1995; or

(2) if appropriations for such benefits are available (other than pursuant to subsection(b)) after December 15, 1995, the last day on which appropriations for payment of such benefits are available (other than pursuant to subsection (b)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 317, the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON] will be recognized for 30 minutes, and the gentleman from Wisconsin [Mr. OBEY] will be recognized for 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana [Mr. LIVINGSTON].

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. LIVINGSTON asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I bring to the floor a continuing resolution for certain activities of the Department of Veterans Affairs. This continuing resolution would only have effect in fiscal year 1996 during periods when appropriations are otherwise not available. This is the situation we are in right now. If the regular bill or another CR is enacted, then this particular continuing resolution would not be operable.

The activities provided for in this continuing resolution are payments for compensation, pensions, and educational benefits within the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, it also provides for payments to contractors for services that directly relate to patient health and safety. It also provides for the necessary administrative expenses to carry out these activities.

Mr. Speaker, this continuing resolution will assure that veterans benefits checks will be received on time, at the end of the month, and in the full amount authorized. Let me stress, had the President not vetoed the VA-HUD bill, this continuing resolution would not have been necessary and these benefits would have been paid. These benefits would have been paid and this CR would not have been necessary if the President had not vetoed the VA-HUD bill. Once again, these benefits would have been paid if the President had not vetoed the VA-HUD bill. I want everybody to understand it. He vetoed it. That is why we are here today. The President vetoed it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all my friends and colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, two more points. This bill is necessary because the President vetoed the VA-HUD bill, but it would not be necessary to progress through both houses and be enacted into law if the President would, in good faith, come to the bargaining table, reach a final agreement on a 7-year balanced budget, according to Congressional